

USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

PARK HOURS:

Sunday – Thursday: 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.
365 days a year

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Sunday – Saturday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

ADMIN. OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

PARK FEES:

\$6 vehicle day-use entry fee (no additional fees for programs, unless otherwise noted)

DIRECTIONS:

From central Phoenix, I-10 east to US 60 east. Exit Ellsworth Road north to the Usery Mountain Regional Park entrance.



Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation Dept.
Usery Mountain Regional Park
3939 N. Usery Pass Road
Mesa, AZ 85207
Ph: 480-984-0032
Fax: 480-357-1545
userypark@mail.maricopa.gov



FEBRUARY, 2015 FEATURED PROGRAMS

Hiker's Choice Full Moon Hike and Campfire

Date: 2/4/2015 Time: 7 p.m.

Description: Here's your chance to experience the desert under the glowing light of the full moon! We will offer both a self-guided and a guided hike – the choice is yours. Afterwards, enjoy the toasty flames of a campfire and a free marshmallow roast. Bring your flashlight, water, and closed-toe shoes for this 2-mile desert adventure. No pets, please. Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Health & Fitness

• • • • •

Movie Night in the Park: "The Living Desert" – A Classic Movie about our Desert Animals!

Date: 2/13/2015 Time: 7 p.m.

Description: Come see the best film ever made about our desert animals! All ages will love this exciting movie on the giant screen inside our air-conditioned Nature Center. You will see desert animals do things you never thought possible – like scorpions dancing! This real-life Disney movie is both educational and highly entertaining. Laughter is guaranteed! As a bonus, watch us feed our snakes after the movie. Feel free to bring snacks and drinks with you (no glass bottles), otherwise, concessions are available inside our Nature Center.

Core: Animals

• • • • •

Desert Mythbusters

Date: 2/20/2015 Time: 6 p.m.

Description: Are rattlesnakes really dangerous? Can you drink water from a cactus? Do "jumping cactus" really jump? Do the arms of a saguaro help to keep it balanced? If you would like to know the answers to these questions, or any questions you may have about our desert, then this one-hour presentation is for you! Join us inside our Nature Center as Ranger B busts some myths about our desert. Watch us feed our snakes after the program at 7pm. Then join our "Animal Flashlight Walk" at 7:30pm at no extra cost!

Core: Animals

• • • • •

Birds, Bees, and Wildflowers

Date: 2/25/2015 Time: 12 p.m.

Description: That Mother Nature is pretty smart! Come learn how she plans for the next generation of desert splendor! Susan Peters, park volunteer and plant aficionado, will be covering the birds, the bees, and everything you want to know about our desert wildflowers in this one-hour "Brown Bag It" presentation. We'll throw in a bit of plant ID as well and you'll be ready to hit the trails! Feel free to bring a lunch.

Location: Nature Center

Core: Plants

• • • • •

MONTHLY EVENTS

Sonoran Desert 101

Date: 2/1/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: Join us for this introduction to some of the fascinating animals and plants of our Sonoran Desert as we enjoy a scenic stroll along the quarter-mile Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center
Core: Animals

• • • • •

Basics of Bird Watching

Date: 2/4/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: Interested about getting into bird watching but don't know where to start? Want to know which bird is which and how to spot them? Join bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, for this introduction to bird watching as she guides you on a quarter-mile stroll along our Desert Hawk Trail. Bring binoculars if you have them, otherwise, Sandy has some to loan. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

Hiker's Choice Full Moon Hike and Campfire

Date: 2/4/2015 **Time:** 7 p.m.
Description: Here's your chance to experience the desert under the glowing light of the full moon! We will offer both a self-guided and a guided hike – the choice is yours. Afterwards, enjoy the toasty flames of a campfire and a free marshmallow roast. Bring your flashlight, water, and closed-toe shoes for this 2-mile desert adventure. No pets, please. Location: Horse Staging Area.
Core: Health & Fitness

• • • • •

Three Mile Thursday

Date: 2/5/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.
Description: Want to get in shape and stay in shape? Want to meet others who want to do the same? Join us for this fun 3 mile moderate-pace hike through our scenic desert. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.
Core: Health & Fitness

• • • • •

Thursday Bird Walk

Date: 2/5/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: How do you tell one brown bird from the next and what are the first three items to look for as the little rascal flits off? Are you already a novice

but interested in keeping a yearly, state or national bird list? Bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, will talk about bird habitat, behavior, range, etc. as we go in search of the native birds in this area. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.
Core: Animals

• • • • •

"Just for Kids" – Storytime in the Desert

Date: 2/5/2015 **Time:** 11 a.m.
Description: Kids (including parents and caregivers) will learn about our desert through a fun story, game, and a short nature walk. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the program as we have two playgrounds in our park. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Entertainment & Social Skills

• • • • •

Cool Cactus Walk

Date: 2/6/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: What are the names of the cacti that grow in our desert? How do they survive (and thrive!) in such a harsh environment? Discover amazing facts about these incredible plants when you join our Interpretive Ranger for this scenic stroll along the quarter-mile Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Plants

• • • • •

Backyard Birding

Date: 2/6/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: Do you drink coffee on your back porch Saturday mornings wondering about the names of the little birds flittering about? Bring your coffee to Usery Park and explore the endless possibilities of backyard birding with bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker. Learn how to attract different birds to your own backyard and what you must provide to your feathered friends. Ask Sandy what your responsibilities are as a backyard birdwatcher and what you can expect. Please bring binoculars and water. Location: Campsite 21 in the Buckhorn Campground.
Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

"Just for Kids" – Toddler Cruise

Date: 2/6/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: This 1-mile hike is designed for parents and caregivers with small children, ages 3 – 6. Along with Miss Lynn, the kids will howl like coyotes, do the "bobcat crawl" and learn

how to hydrate by counting gulps of water on their fingers. We will explore the desert along the scenic Merkle Trail. The hard-smooth surface of this trail will accommodate wheelchairs and strollers. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Area 6.
Core: Animals

• • • • •

Progressive Fitness Hike #4

Date: 2/7/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.
Description: Want to increase your fitness level and also enjoy the outdoors? Hit the trails with us for a fun way to get back in shape! During this hike series, each hike will increase in length and difficulty in order to help you prepare for the grand finale hike – the 7.5-mile loop trail around Pass Mountain! This is a great way to get in shape and to hike many different trails in Usery Park at the same time. This hike series will take place every Saturday morning through February 21. This fourth hike of the series will be approximately 5.5 miles. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area. Note: Participation in the 4th or 5th hike in this series is required to do the final hike. Please be aware that this series involves elevation changes, uneven terrain, and a moderate pace. Participants are expected to stay with the group.
Core: Health & Fitness

• • • • •

Wag 'n' Walk Dog Adoption Hike

Date: 2/7/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.
Description: Don't have a dog? No problem! Maricopa County's Animal Care & Control and Parks and Recreation Departments have united to bring you this program. You can "test drive" potential canine hiking partners to see how they behave on leash and get along with other dogs, while learning about trail etiquette and safety. Owned, friendly, leashed dogs that are at least six months old and current on their vaccinations are welcome to join this one-mile trek on our scenic, groomed, Merkle Trail. Please bring water, closed-toe shoes, and an open heart for a possible new best friend, or two. This program will be held on the first Saturday of each month, from October through April. Location: Area 6.
Core: Animals

• • • • •

Archery 101 (Two class times available)

Date: 2/7/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.

USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Description: Interested in archery? Curious about how to shoot a bow? Come to Usery Park and find out! You will discover how fun archery really is! Participants will experience a fun and safe introduction to recreational and international-style target archery. Equipment will be provided. This class is open to anyone ages 8 and up. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Archery Range. Note: This same class is also offered at 10:30am. No registration – just show up and have some fun!

Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

Saturday Bird Walk

Date: 2/7/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: How do you tell one brown bird from the next, and what are the first three items to look for as the little rascal flits off? Are you already a novice but interested in keeping a yearly, state or national bird list? Bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, will talk about bird habitat, behavior, range, etc. as we go in search of the native birds in this area. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. If needed, we have binoculars to borrow. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Animals

• • • • •

Kid vs. Wild

Date: 2/7/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: Kids, what would you do if you got lost in the desert? This fun program will teach you what to do! You will learn how to find your way, signal for help, build an emergency shelter, and avoid desert dangers. This program involves a 1-mile hike and is designed for kids ages 7-12. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Group Picnic C.

Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

Digital Photography – Intermediate Level

Date: 2/7/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: Are you comfortable moving your camera off of the automatic settings? If you are and you are ready to look at some of the more advanced features of your DSLR camera, then this class is for you! Nature Photographer, Steven Lewis, will be discussing the reasons for using RAW versus JPeG, what white balance is and how it is important or not that important in shooting, different metering systems, and different autofocus. He will also have a brief discussion on wildlife

photography including some of the ethical challenges for a wildlife photographer. Depending on time, bring along a flash drive with two of your best nature pictures and the class will critique them. Location: Nature Center

Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

New to Arizona?

Date: 2/8/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Are you new to Arizona? Are you curious about cactus and scared of snakes? If so, join us for an introductory experience to the Sonoran Desert. After a question-and-answer session, we will take an enjoyable quarter-mile walk on our scenic Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Animals

• • • • •

Super Saguaro Walk

Date: 2/8/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: Why do saguaros grow arms? Can you estimate the age of a saguaro? Can you drink water from one? If you would like to know the answers to these questions, or any questions you may have about saguaros, then this quarter-mile stroll along the scenic Desert Hawk Trail with Ranger B is for you! Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Plants

• • • • •

Backyard Birding

Date: 2/11/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Do you drink coffee on your back porch Saturday mornings wondering about the names of the little birds flittering about? Bring your coffee to Usery Park and explore the endless possibilities of backyard birding with bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker. Learn how to attract different birds to your own backyard and what you must provide to your feathered friends. Ask Sandy what your responsibilities are as a backyard birdwatcher and what you can expect. Please bring binoculars and water. Location: Campsite 21 in the Buckhorn Campground.

Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

Wildlife Safari

Date: 2/11/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: We all love to see wild animals, but where are they hiding this time of year? Join us on this exciting 1.5-mile wildlife safari as we sneak to the secret places where the park's

wildlife is often seen. Feel free to bring your camera and binoculars. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Animals

• • • • •

All About Prickly Pear Cactus

Date: 2/11/2015 **Time:** 12 p.m.

Description: Food, nutrition, medicine, pest or pleasure in the landscape - just what is this plant and why was it so important to the Spanish Conquistadors in the mid-1500's? Bring your sandwich to the "Brown-Bag It" series inside our Nature Center as Susan Peters, Park Volunteer and plant aficionado, sheds light on this amazing cactus. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Plants

• • • • •

Three Mile Thursday

Date: 2/12/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Want to get in shape and stay in shape? Want to meet others who want to do the same? Join us for this fun 3 mile moderate-pace hike through our scenic desert. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Health & Fitness

• • • • •

Thursday Bird Walk

Date: 2/12/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: How do you tell one brown bird from the next and what are the first three items to look for as the little rascal flits off? Are you already a novice but interested in keeping a yearly, state or national bird list? Bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, will talk about bird habitat, behavior, range, etc. as we go in search of the native birds in this area. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Animals

• • • • •

Hike the Wind Cave Trail

Date: 2/13/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Why is the hike up to Wind Cave such a popular hike? Join us and find out! This difficult, 3-mile round-trip hike gains over 800 feet in elevation and presents some of the most spectacular scenery in the Valley! Please bring water, hats, snacks, and closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Wind Cave Trailhead.

Core: Health & Fitness

• • • • •

Introduction to Desert Plants

Date: 2/13/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Join park host, Sandy Hornbaker, for this informative introduction to our Sonoran Desert

USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

plants. This quarter-mile stroll along a scenic trail will introduce you to some of the more common plants found in this area. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Plants

• • • • •

Movie Night in the Park: "The Living Desert"

Date: 2/13/2015 **Time:** 7 p.m.

Description: Come see the best film ever made about our desert animals! All ages will love this exciting movie on the giant screen inside our air-conditioned Nature Center. You will see desert animals do things you never thought possible – like scorpions dancing! This real-life Disney movie is both educational and highly entertaining. Laughter is guaranteed! As a bonus, watch us feed our snakes after the movie. Feel free to bring snacks and drinks with you (no glass bottles), otherwise, concessions are available inside our Nature Center.

Core: Animals

• • • • •

Progressive Fitness Hike #5

Date: 2/14/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Want to increase your fitness level and also enjoy the outdoors? Hit the trails with us for a fun way to get back in shape! During this hike series, each hike will increase in length and difficulty in order to help you prepare for the grand finale hike – the 7.5-mile loop trail around Pass Mountain! This is a great way to get in shape and to hike many different trails in Usery Park at the same time. This hike series will take place every Saturday through February 21. This fifth hike of the series will be approximately 6.5 miles. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area. Note: Participation in the 4th or 5th hike in this series is required to do the final hike.

Core: Health & Fitness

• • • • •

Archery 202

Date: 2/14/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: For those who completed our "Archery 101" class, this class will take you to the next level! Participants will learn about field target archery, discover how to improve their accuracy, and enjoy some friendly competition. Equipment will be provided. Participants must be graduates of our "Archery 101" class. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Archery Range. 9 AM - 11 AM. No registration –

just show up and have some fun!

Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

All About Bird Songs

Date: 2/14/2015 **Time:** 12 p.m.

Description: Hear that bird? Love to hear birds sing, but unable to identify them? Want to match the bird with the song? If so, then this one-hour presentation is for you! Bring your sandwich to the "Brown-Bag It" series under the comfort of a shaded patio (with a great view!), as our birding expert, Sandy Hornbaker, helps you identify our melodious desert birds through the use of recordings. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Animals

• • • • •

Beginning Desert Hiking

Date: 2/15/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Interested in learning how to hike in the desert? This easy hike on a level one-mile scenic trail will introduce you to the fun world of desert hiking! Park hosts, Mark and Lynn, will cover what to carry, what to wear, and how to hike safely in the desert. Location: Area 6.

Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

New to Arizona?

Date: 2/16/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Are you new to Arizona? Are you curious about cactus and scared of snakes? If so, join us for an introductory experience to the Sonoran Desert. After a question-and-answer session, we will take an enjoyable quarter-mile walk on our scenic Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Animals

• • • • •

Basics of Bird Watching

Date: 2/18/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Interested about getting into bird watching but don't know where to start? Want to know which bird is which and how to spot them? Join bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, for this introduction to bird watching as she guides you on a quarter-mile stroll along our Desert Hawk Trail. Bring binoculars if you have them, otherwise, Sandy has some to loan. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

Meandering the Merkle

Date: 2/18/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: You never know what

you're going to find out in our desert! Join desert aficionado, Susan Peters, on this 1-mile/1-hour stroll along the Merkle Trail in search of desert plants, animals, and whatever else interests you. The Merkle Trail offers universal access and the hard-smooth surface of this trail will accommodate wheelchairs and strollers. Please bring your questions, water, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Area 6.

Core: Plants

• • • • •

Three Mile Thursday

Date: 2/19/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Want to get in shape and stay in shape? Want to meet others who want to do the same? Join us for this fun 3 mile moderate-pace hike through our scenic desert. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Health & Fitness

• • • • •

Thursday Bird Walk

Date: 2/19/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: How do you tell one brown bird from the next and what are the first three items to look for as the little rascal flits off? Are you already a novice but interested in keeping a yearly, state or national bird list? Bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, will talk about bird habitat, behavior, range, etc. as we go in search of the native birds in this area. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Animals

• • • • •

"Just for Kids" – Storytime in the Desert

Date: 2/19/2015 **Time:** 11 a.m.

Description: Kids (including parents and caregivers) will learn about our desert through a fun story, game, and a short nature walk. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the program as we have two playgrounds in our park. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Entertainment & Social Skills

• • • • •

Home School Program: Shake, Rattle and Roll

Date: 2/20/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: We go about our daily activities not realizing that beneath our feet is a very restless Earth! Get inside the scoop about earthquakes, volcanoes, and more – why they happen and where they are located around the world.

NOTE: Pre-registration is required through the Arizona Science Center. To register, please call the Arizona Science Center at (602)716-2000 ext. 229, or

USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

email campbellm@azscience.org.
Arizona Science Center members: \$20 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child. Non-members: \$30 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child. There is also a \$6 per vehicle entry fee to enter the park unless you have a county parks annual pass. Location: Usery Park Nature Center

Core: Geology

• • • • •

Backyard Birding

Date: 2/20/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Do you drink coffee on your back porch Saturday mornings wondering about the names of the little birds fluttering about? Bring your coffee to Usery Park and explore the endless possibilities of backyard birding with bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker. Learn how to attract different birds to your own backyard and what you must provide to your feathered friends. Ask Sandy what your responsibilities are as a backyard birdwatcher and what you can expect. Please bring binoculars and water. Location: Campsite 21 in the Buckhorn Campground.

Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

Desert Mythbusters

Date: 2/20/2015 **Time:** 6 p.m.

Description: Are rattlesnakes really dangerous? Can you drink water from a cactus? Do "jumping cactus" really jump? Do the arms of a saguaro help to keep it balanced? If you would like to know the answers to these questions, or any questions you may have about our desert, then this one-hour presentation is for you! Join us inside our Nature Center as Ranger B busts some myths about our desert. Watch us feed our snakes after the program at 7pm. Then join our "Animal Flashlight Walk" at 7:30pm at no extra cost!

Core: Animals

• • • • •

Animal Flashlight Walk

Date: 2/20/2015 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.

Description: We are the nocturnal animals of the desert and we like to hide. Help Ranger B find us if you can! If you would like to learn about us and enjoy a night walk in the desert, then join Ranger B as he takes you on this exciting 1-mile/1-hour walk along the Merkle Trail. The Merkle Trail offers universal access and the hard-smooth surface of this trail will accommodate wheelchairs and strollers. Please bring water, a flashlight, and closed-toe shoes. No pets, please. Location: Area

6. Join our "Desert Mythbusters" program inside our Nature Center at 6pm, and our snake feeding at 7pm at no extra cost!

Core: Animals

• • • • •

Progressive Fitness Hike #6

Date: 2/21/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Today is the day you have been training for! This is the grand finale hike of our 6-week hike series – the culmination of five previous hikes that have prepared us for this 7.5 mile loop around Pass Mountain. Please bring ample water, snacks, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Staging Area. Note: Participation in the 4th or 5th hike in this series was required to do this final hike. Please be aware that this hike involves elevation changes, uneven terrain, and a moderate pace. Participants are expected to stay with the group.

Core: Health & Fitness

• • • • •

Amazing Desert Plants

Date: 2/21/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: What are the names of the unique plants that grow in our desert? How do they survive (and thrive!) in such a harsh environment? Discover the special strategies of these incredible plants when you join our Interpretive Ranger, Ranger B, for this quarter-mile stroll along the scenic Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Plants

• • • • •

Saturday Bird Walk

Date: 2/21/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: How do you tell one brown bird from the next, and what are the first three items to look for as the little rascal flits off? Are you already a novice but interested in keeping a yearly, state or national bird list? Bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, will talk about bird habitat, behavior, range, etc. as we go in search of the native birds in this area. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. If needed, we have binoculars to borrow. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Animals

• • • • •

Campground Nature Walk

Date: 2/21/2015 **Time:** 4 p.m.

Description: Join park host, Sandy Hornbaker, for a late afternoon sojourn through our campground and nature trail on a quest to spot desert wildlife and plants. Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed, but bring binoculars, your

afternoon tea, and a little patience. Be prepared to walk up to one mile. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Campsite 21 in the Buckhorn Campground.

Core: Animals

• • • • •

Desert Edibles Walk

Date: 2/22/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: How have people survived off the land for thousands of years? Which desert plants are edible and when are they edible? If you would like to know the answers to these questions, or any questions you may have about desert edibles, then this walk is for you! Join Ranger B on this quarter-mile stroll along the Desert Hawk Trail as he shares some useful facts about our edible desert plants. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Plants

• • • • •

Backyard Birding

Date: 2/25/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Do you drink coffee on your back porch Saturday mornings wondering about the names of the little birds fluttering about? Bring your coffee to Usery Park and explore the endless possibilities of backyard birding with bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker. Learn how to attract different birds to your own backyard and what you must provide to your feathered friends. Ask Sandy what your responsibilities are as a backyard birdwatcher and what you can expect. Please bring binoculars and water. Location: Campsite 21 in the Buckhorn Campground.

Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

Super Saguaro Walk

Date: 2/25/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Why do saguaros grow arms? Can you estimate the age of a saguaro? Can you drink water from one? If you would like to know the answers to these questions, or any questions you may have about saguaros, then this quarter-mile stroll along the scenic Desert Hawk Trail with Ranger B is for you! Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Plants

• • • • •

Birds, Bees, and Wildflowers

Date: 2/25/2015 **Time:** 12 p.m.

Description: That Mother Nature is pretty smart! Come learn how she plans for the next generation of desert splendor! Susan Peters, park volunteer

USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

and plant aficionado, will be covering the birds, the bees, and everything you want to know about our desert wildflowers in this one-hour "Brown Bag It" presentation. We'll throw in a bit of plant ID as well and you'll be ready to hit the trails! Feel free to bring a lunch. Location: Nature Center
Core: Plants

• • • • •

Three Mile Thursday

Date: 2/26/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.
Description: Want to get in shape and stay in shape? Want to meet others who want to do the same? Join us for this fun 3 mile moderate-pace hike through our scenic desert. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.
Core: Health & Fitness

• • • • •

Thursday Bird Walk

Date: 11/26/2014 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: How do you tell one brown bird from the next and what are the first three items to look for as the little rascal flits off? Are you already a novice but interested in keeping a yearly, state or national bird list? Bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, will talk about bird habitat, behavior, range, etc. as we go in search of the native birds in this area. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.
Core: Animals

• • • • •

See next page for programs: Sonoran Desert 101

Date: 2/27/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.
Description: Join us for this introduction to some of the fascinating animals and plants of our Sonoran Desert as we enjoy a scenic stroll along the quarter-mile Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center
Core: Animals

• • • • •

Basics of Bird Watching

Date: 2/27/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: Interested about getting into bird watching but don't know where to start? Want to know which bird is which and how to spot them? Join bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, for this introduction to bird watching as she guides you on a quarter-mile stroll along our Desert Hawk Trail. Bring binoculars if you have them, otherwise, Sandy has some to loan. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

All About Desert Survival

Date: 2/27/2015 **Time:** 12 p.m.
Description: What would you do if your car breaks down or you get lost while hiking? Would you know how to survive if you were stranded in the desert? What are the most important things to do to stay alive? If you would like to know the answers to these questions, or any questions you may have about desert survival, then this one-hour presentation is for you! Bring your sandwich to the "Brown-Bag It" series inside our Nature Center as Ranger B shares some life-saving tips on how to survive in the desert.
Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

"Just for Kids" – Little Desert Explorers

Date: 2/28/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: This 1-mile hike is designed for parents and caregivers with children ages 3 – 6 years. Using their senses, kids will discover lots of cool things about the plants and animals that call our desert "home." We will explore the desert along the scenic Merkle Trail. The hard-smooth surface of this trail will accommodate wheelchairs and strollers. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Area 6.
Core: Animals

• • • • •

Basics of Bird Watching

Date: 2/28/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: Interested about getting into bird watching but don't know where to start? Want to know which bird is which and how to spot them? Join bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, for this introduction to bird watching as she guides you on a quarter-mile stroll along our Desert Hawk Trail. Bring binoculars if you have them, otherwise, Sandy has some to loan. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Outdoor Skills

• • • • •

"100 Miles in 100 Days" Celebration

Date: 2/28/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.
Description: For all participants who completed the "100 Miles in 100 Days" challenge, this is your day! Join us at our Nature Center as we celebrate your accomplishment. A free limited edition tee-shirt will be given to each person who completed this challenge (the deadline was February 8 – prior registration was required). Location: Nature Center.
Core: Entertainment & Social Skills

• • • • •

Geology of the Superstitions

Date: 2/28/2015 **Time:** 7 p.m.
Description: The Superstition Wilderness is one of the most beautiful and rugged places in the country. How did it get that way? What formed it? What makes it so unique? Can gold be found there? Join local geology professor, A. J. Lombard, as he shares a wealth of information about the fascinating geology of the Superstitions in this informative slide presentation. Bring your curiosities and questions to Usery Park and discover lots of amazing things about this local treasure! Location: Nature Center
Core: Geology

• • • • •

STAFF

Park Supervisor: Dan Wilson
Interpretive Ranger: Brennan Basler
Office Asst.: Andrea Despotides
Maintenance: Tony Botwinis, Ray Martin and Ben Kelstrup

• • • • •

MESSAGE FROM THE PARK SUPERVISOR:

Thank you for your continued support and interest in Usery Mountain Regional Park. We realize that you have a choice when it comes to selecting recreation venues and appreciate your business!

Sincerely,

Dan Wilson

• • • • •

WHAT TO BRING:

Please wear closed-toe shoes or boots for most programs, and bring plenty of drinking water. See descriptions below for specifics.

Notes: Fees for our programs are included in the park entry fee of \$6 per vehicle or with your annual pass or camping fee. Reservations are not required unless specified in the program description. Hikes/programs are canceled if heavy inclement weather is imminent. If possible, canceled hikes will be posted on our website.

• • • • •

RANGER GUIDED HIKES and PROGRAMS:

Start times vary, check schedule carefully. For more information, call the park office at (480) 984-0032.